

21st century. One in four Native Americans live in poverty, and our failure to provide educational resources they need is a major reason why.

We have been doing less and less for tribal education in recent years, letting funding for repairs and modernization decrease dramatically. As a result, there is a huge backlog of tribal schools and facilities that require major repairs or complete replacement. As long as we continue to allow funding levels for tribal school construction to fall, that number will keep growing.

It's time for us to do more, and this amendment is a great step in the right direction. By doubling the funding available for improving tribal school facilities, we will be putting our resources where they are needed most and can do the most good. This funding will go a long way towards addressing basic needs in my district and at schools across the Nation, helping ensure that kids living on tribal lands have the same opportunities as every other child in the country. I urge my colleagues to support it.

CELEBRATION OF JONESBORO GEORGIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the historic city of Jonesboro, Georgia on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Officially founded as a town in 1859, Jonesboro existed as a small rural community until the rise of industrialization during the mid-19th century. Named after Colonel Samuel Goode Jones, an engineer who organized the construction of the first paved roads in town, Jonesboro continued to prosper until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

The legendary Battle of Jonesboro will always be remembered by our nation as one of the more significant milestones of the American Civil War. Because of the defeat of Confederate troops at the Battle of Jonesboro, General Sherman's army was successful in occupying the city of Atlanta, an event which directly contributed to the surrendering of the Confederate army in 1865. Following the end of the Civil War, Jonesboro began an arduous and trying period of reconstruction, along with the rest of the American South.

The town of Jonesboro persevered through these numerous challenges and is known today for its extraordinary commitment to re-growth. Furthermore, the publication of Margaret Mitchell's internationally renowned novel, *Gone with the Wind*, has forever sealed this beautiful town and its remarkable past into our nation's cultural cannon.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such a remarkable city, a city which has played such an integral role in the history of the United States. I congratulate Jonesboro on this date, the 150th anniversary of its town's formation, and grant my sincerest wishes for its prosperity and success in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with my colleague, Congressman VERN EHLERS of Michigan, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. Every president since Dwight Eisenhower has spoken at the National Prayer Breakfast. This year, we were honored to have the participation of our President and the First Lady. President Obama continued the longstanding tradition of addressing the Breakfast. We were encouraged and inspired by his words as well as the remarks shared by the Right Honorable Tony Blair.

This year we hosted a gathering of over 4,000 individuals from all 50 States and from 182 countries around the world. So that all may benefit from the prayerful message relayed at the National Prayer Breakfast, I would like to request that a copy of the transcript of the 2009 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

57TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN EHLERS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HEATH SHULER

Congressman VERNON EHLERS: Good morning. Welcome to the National Prayer Breakfast.

Congressman HEATH SHULER: I am honored to introduce a great leader from North Carolina. Michell Hicks is the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. He was elected to the position in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. He and his wife Marsha have five children. Chief Hicks is joined by Amanda Wolfe, who has won the honor of being Miss Cherokee. They will now offer our pre-breakfast prayer, the Lord's Prayer in English and Cherokee. Chief Hicks.

Chief MICHELL HICKS: It is an honor to be here this morning. I want to thank the Congressmen for the invitation and, most importantly, to thank the Lord for blessing each one of us today.

Miss CHEROKEE: "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Chief HICKS: (translates the Lord's Prayer in Cherokee)

Congressman SHULER: I would like to introduce our special guests that we have here this morning. Most of the folks at the head table will be introduced in their place in the program, but we would like to introduce the others as well—Mrs. Anita Skelton, daughter-in-law of the Congressman; Joanna Ehlers, the spouse of my co-chair; my wife, Nicole; and the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

Congressman EHLERS: I have the pleasure of introducing several heads of state and heads of government who have traveled to Washington to participate in this important

event. I would ask you to join me in welcoming:

President Rene Garcia Preval of Haiti
President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines
Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania
Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia

Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius

We cannot recognize all of the foreign dignitaries without recognizing our own Vice President Biden.

It is a pleasure to have all of you here. In addition to those I have introduced, we also have former heads of government, vice presidents, and first ladies from the nations of Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, the Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, and Tanzania. You all are most welcome. We are honored by your presence. Thank you all for being here.

Let me just say a bit about our weekly prayer breakfast—just so you know where we are coming from. Every Thursday morning from eight to nine o'clock, a group of us get together for prayer and singing. As we are singing hymns, echoing through the corridors of the Capitol, and then engaging in prayer, it always strikes me: "This is wonderful, right here in the capital of the United States, we are having this wonderful ceremony together, this event where we are recognizing God's place in our lives." Every week when we kick it off, the first words are "welcome to the best hour of the week." That is the way we feel about it. We are glad to welcome you to the best hour of the year, right here in this room.

Congressman SHULER: On Thursday mornings, it is very special that we have members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, who check their political parties at the door when they attend our breakfast. We are there to be united, to fellowship, to worship, to sing and to praise together. Many times we laugh together, we hear funny stories, and we cry together about the times that we miss our families and when we struggle. It is our members of Congress reaching out to one another and in prayer. We cherish those moments together. Each week we actually sing a hymn. The singing is not very good, I might add. It is very special that we have every state as well as 182 nations represented here today. We get to hear some wonderful singing and wonderful worship on this great day. I would like to introduce to you professional musicians to take the members of Congress's place. I think God really appreciates that. Our musical guests this morning are Casting Crowns, led by Mark Hall.

CASTING CROWNS: [sing] "Oh, what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat; I'm in onto the crashing waves. Just step out of my comfort zone to the realm of being known where Jesus is and is holding out his hand, but the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed. The waves, they keep on telling me time and time again boy you'll never win, you'll never win but the voice of truth, it tells me a different story. The voice of truth says do not be afraid, and the voice of truth said this is for my glory out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe the voice of truth."

And oh what I would do to have the kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone. Surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors shaking in their armor, wishing they'd of had the strength to stand, but the giant's calling out my name and he laughs at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed, the giant keeps on telling me time and time

again boy, you'll never win (never win), you'll never win but the voice of truth tells me a different story, the voice of truth says "do not be afraid" and the voice of truth says "this is for my glory." Out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe the voice of truth. The stone was just the right size to put the giant on the ground and the waves, they don't seem so high on top of them looking down and I soar with the wings of eagles if I'd stop and listen to the sound of Jesus singing over me and the voice of truth tells me a different story, the voice of truth says "do not be afraid," and the voice of truth said "this is for my glory," out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe, I would choose to listen and believe, voice of truth, and I, I will listen and believe because Jesus you are the voice of truth."

Congressman EHLERS: Any Thursday morning that you are free, you are welcome to come to our weekly prayer breakfast. It is now my pleasure to introduce Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri to present a reading from the Holy Scriptures.

Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON: Many of you all know that in Genesis 33 we find the reunion of Jacob and Esau. As a young man, Jacob had swindled the inheritance away from his twin brother Esau by tricking their blind father Isaac. After that treachery, Jacob flees for fear of Esau's reprisal. Jacob toils away in a faraway land and builds up for himself great wealth. However, God leads Jacob back to the land of his birth to fulfill the covenant God had with Abraham. Jacob is so afraid of Esau that he divides his people so that some may survive the coming battle. I will read to you now from Genesis chapter 33, verses 1–12:

And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked and behold Esau was coming and four hundred men with him, so he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants, and he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on before them bowing himself to the ground seven times until he came nearer to his brother. But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him and they wept. And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said "who are these with you?" Jacob said "the children whom God has graciously given your servant." Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down, and last, Joseph and Rachel drew near and they bowed down. Esau said "what do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "to find favor in the sight of my Lord." But Esau said, "I have enough my brother, keep what you have for yourself." Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand, for I have seen your face which is like seeing the face of God and you have accepted me. Please accept my blessing that is brought to you because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have enough." Thus he urged him and he took it, then Esau said "let us journey on our way and I will go ahead of you."

Congressman EHLERS: To present a prayer for national leaders I call to the platform one of the pillars of our House breakfast for many years, Congressman Ike Skelton.

Congressman IKE SKELTON: Whenever we pray, we should keep in mind the words of the British Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson who wrote: "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." May we pray?

God Almighty and the Father of us all—as is stated in the Constitution of this great country: "we have common purpose as the

people of the United States, that we are to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." Throughout our history, Lord, you have granted us leaders in national government, in industry, commerce, science, education and religion to serve this common purpose—for this we thank you. In our own day, we pray for our President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill. We also pray for the members of the Congress, our leaders, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the other leaders in the Congress, the Supreme Court, our cabinet members, our military leaders, and all government leaders in the states and the local communities. Help them to fulfill their sacred pledge and perform their duties with wisdom and compassion. May they seek your guidance by prayer, the support of the citizenry by listening to genuine needs, and witness to your strong arm behind everything. May leaders in business and economics be blessed with personal integrity and professional collaboration. Lord, bless our nation's leaders in religion and education so that they provide a powerful vision for your people. Instill in them common hopes and greater understanding of themselves and others—together, creating imaginations will establish a common ground to plant seeds for the future. In our families, Lord, raise up new leadership for our nation, may parents prove to be good role models by their faithfulness, self discipline, and basic moral standards. Help them to encourage young people to have great expectations and to accomplish great deeds. Especially, we pray today for those families who are involved in military service. Protect them, sustain them until they return safely and together with them we live in peace. In you, oh Lord, we find the power to live our constitutional convictions and in you we place our trust, calling upon your Holy Name, now and forever. Amen.

Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON: Good morning. I am Johnny Isakson from Georgia, and I am honored to Co-Chair the Senate prayer breakfast.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR: I am Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota, the other Co-Chair. On behalf of the United States Senate, we would like to welcome you today.

When Johnny and I took over the Senate prayer breakfast this year, we inherited some changes. There was a new Senate food service manager and she tripled the price of the breakfast. More importantly, they took the grits off the menu which did not sit well with Johnny or any of the other Southerners. Picture this, here I am, the first woman to do this, a Northern Senator, and the grits disappear from the menu and the price triples. This is a true crisis in leadership. So we asked for some divine intervention. After some tough negotiations, the price came down and, as if by a miracle, the grits returned to the menu.

Senator ISAKSON: Mr. President, if a Minnesota Yankee can save grits for a Southern Republican, there is hope for bipartisanship.

We gather together every Wednesday, not as Republicans or as Democratic members of the Senate, but as Americans with a deep and abiding faith in God and the hope for the future of our country, and the hope for the future of our world. As we do so, we gather not seeking what we do not have in common, but relishing that which we do have in common—a deep and abiding faith in Our Lord, and a great appreciation for our great country, the United States of America.

Senator KLOBUCHAR: Our Senate prayer breakfast is truly a special occasion. It is a chance for us to share and to build friend-

ships which might not otherwise be possible. This is especially important for all of us. The daily pressures of our work can way too often limit our horizons and narrow our circle of friends. These same pressures also make it all too easy for us to lose our way. Through prayer we can find our moral compass that will guide us back and lead us forward. And through prayer we are also humbled—that is important since modesty too often appears to be one of the first casualties of a life in Washington. As a new Senator, I found the prayer breakfast to be a respite from the day to day quarrels and strategic maneuvering of Washington. I have actually gotten to like grits and meet some new friends like Johnny.

Senator ISAKSON: Our Founding Fathers created this nation as one nation under God and we know that we are also one world under God. As we gather and pray together, we pray for the strength of our country, knowing that just as the breakfast we have enjoyed sustains our bodies, the faith we share in common with our God sustains our soul.

Congressman SHULER: As was mentioned earlier, the House and the Senate alternates chairing the National Prayer Breakfast, with his year's Prayer Breakfast being run by the House. We call on all of our colleagues and ask them to participate for various roles in the program. When we first put the program together, our next presenter was a member of the U.S. House. Since then, she has gotten herself into a new job in the Senate—but we still claim her as one of us. To present a reading from the Holy Scripture, I am happy to introduce my friend and the new Senator from New York, Kirsten Gillibrand.

Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND: It is an honor to be among so many faithful. I would like to offer a reading from Matthew, chapter 5, verses 14–16.

"You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden, neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Heath asked me to reflect on what this scripture meant to me. I thought about this passage and the parable of the talents. I believe that as God has blessed me with certain skills and talents, as New York's newest Senator, I offer them up for public service, with much gratitude and humility in my heart. May each deed from my hands and each word from my lips reflect God's light and his love for the world.

Congressman SHULER: It is now my pleasure to introduce Congressman Todd Akin of Missouri, who will present a prayer for world leaders.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with colleague, Congressman HEATH SHULER of North Carolina, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. I would like to request that